

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of diagnosing breast cancer in a patient sample, the patient sample comprising a fixed breast tissue sample or a frozen breast tissue, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring directly in the patient sample an amount of Her-1-Her-2 complex, Her2-Her-3 complex, or both;

comparing each such amount to its corresponding amount in a reference normal breast tissue sample; and

correlating differences in the amount or amounts from the patient sample and the respective corresponding amount or amounts from the reference sample, wherein an increase in the amount of Her-1-Her-2 complex, Her2-Her-3 complex, or both, indicates the presence of breast cancer in [a] the patient.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the amount or amounts [or] of said Her-1-Her-2 or Her2-Her-3 complexes are determined by the steps of:

contacting complexes in said patient sample with a cleaving probe having a cleavage-inducing moiety with an effective proximity, and with one or more binding compounds each having one or more molecular tags attached thereto by a cleavable linkage, the molecular tags of different binding compounds having different separation characteristics,

such that the cleaving probe and the one or more binding compounds specifically bind to their respective complexes and the cleavable linkages of the one or more binding compounds within the effective proximity of the cleavage-inducing moiety thereby releasing one or more of the one or more molecular tags; and

separating and identifying the released molecular tags to determine the presence or absence of said complexes in said patient sample.

5-45 (Canceled).